

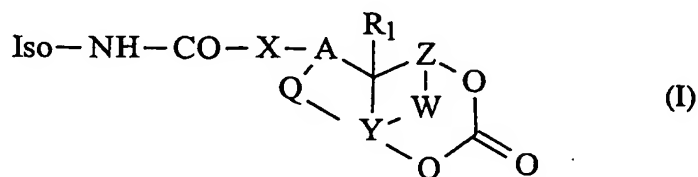
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-22 (Canceled)

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates of formula (I) below having a crosslinking functional group:



in which:

- Iso is a polyisocyanate residue containing at least two isocyanate functions after conversion of at least one isocyanate function, and further comprising at least one other isocyanate function masked with a masking agent or a mixture of thermolabile masking agents; and Iso optionally comprising at least one additional unmodified isocyanate function;
- X represents an atom or a group of atoms resulting from the reaction of a compound bearing a -XH group, optionally after decarboxylation, with an isocyanate function;
- A represents a bond or a linear, branched or cyclic hydrocarbon-based chain containing from 1 to 30 carbon atoms;

- $R_1$  represents H or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;
  - Q is absent or represents an oxygen or sulfur atom or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;
  - Z represents a bond or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;
  - Y represents a bond or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A;
  - W is absent or represents a bond, an oxygen or sulfur atom or a hydrocarbon-based chain as defined for A; and
  - Q being absent when Y or A represents a bond and W or A being absent when Y or Z represents a bond;
- with the proviso that Z and Y do not simultaneously represent a bond.

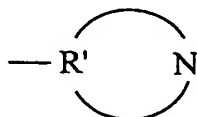
Claim 24 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, in which X is selected from the group consisting of:

-O,

-S,

=N,

=NR, in which R represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon-based group containing from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group,



in which  $R'$  represents a 4- to 10-membered optionally substituted hydrocarbon chain optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group, the chain  $R'$  forming with NH a nitrogen ring,

-CO-NR,

-NR-COO,

-COO,

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---N} \\ | \\ \text{COOR} \end{array},$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ || \\ \text{---O---P---O} \\ | \\ \text{OR} \end{array},$$

-A'- ,

-A'-COO-

wherein A' is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon-based chain comprising from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted with at least one hetero atom or hetero group,

-NH-CO-NH, and

-NH-CO-NR, wherein R is as defined above.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein X represents an oxygen atom.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein A represents a -CH<sub>2</sub>- group.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein Y represents a -CH<sub>2</sub>- group.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein Z represents a bond or  $-\text{CH}_2-$ .

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein W and Q represent a bond.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein said crosslinking functional group comprises a cyclic carbonate formed by reaction of a vicinal hydroxy compound, with an activated carbonylating agent.

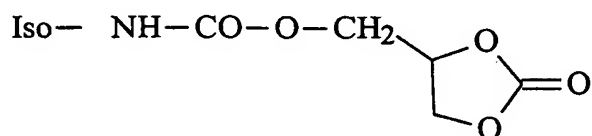
Claim 31 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 30, wherein the vicinal hydroxy compound is chosen from glycerol, 9, 10-dihydroxystearic acid, 1,9, 10-trihydroxy-octadecane or trimethylolpropane.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 30, wherein the activated carbonylating agent is chosen from carbonyldiimidazole, carbonylbis(1,2,4-triazole), carbonylbis(methyl ethyl ketoxime) or N,N'-disuccinimidyl carbonate.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein said crosslinking functional group is derived from glyceryl carbonate, succinic acid glyceryl carbonate monoester, glutaric acid glyceryl carbonate monoester, trimethylol propane carbonate, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid carbonate or 1,9, 10-trihydroxy-octadecane carbonate.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein the crosslinking functional group is obtained by reacting an isocyanate function with glyceryl carbonate or a fatty acid carbonate or ester thereof.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, of the formula:



Claim 36 (Canceled)

Claim 37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein the masking agent is selected from lactams or oximes or optionally substituted imidazoles, pyrazoles, 1,2, 3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole or phenols.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein the unmodified isocyanate function(s) are masked by at least two different masking agents.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein at least two different masking agents are selected such that, in the octanol test at 110° C, the ratio

$$D = \frac{\text{percentage of masking agent unblocking first at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}{\text{percentage of masking agent unblocking last at } 110^{\circ}\text{C}}$$

is greater than 4/3.

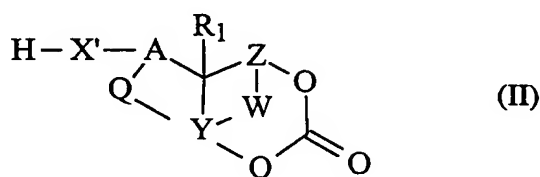
Claim 41 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 40, wherein the masking agents are an oxime and a triazole.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, derived from polyisocyanates selected from the group consisting of:

- compounds having at least one isocyanurate group,
- compounds having at least one uretidinedione group,
- compounds having at least one carbamate group,
- compounds having at least one allophanate group,
- compounds having at least one ester group,
- compounds having at least one urea function,
- compounds having at least one iminocyclooxadiazinedione function,
- compounds having at least one cyclooxadiazinetriene function,
- compounds having at least one masked isocyanate group, and
- compounds comprising a combination of at least one of the

aforementioned groups.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 23, wherein at least one compound containing at least three isocyanate functions is reacted with a compound of formula II:



in which X' represents X or X-COO, X being as specified above, and wherein at least 1% up to 99% by weight, of said isocyanate functions are masked with at least one masking group and from 0 to 99% by weight, are free isocyanate functions.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 43, further including diisocyanate derivatives wherein at least some of the isocyanate functions are modified with a compound of formula II, and at least 1 % by weight, of isocyanate functions are modified with at least one masking group.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 23, comprising mixtures of polyfunctional isocyanate tricondensates derived from the (cyclo)trimerization of three isocyanate monomer molecules and optionally other monomers and comprising an isocyanurate and/or biuret ring and/or allophanates, and/or dimers wherein at least some of the isocyanate functions are modified with said crosslinking functional group.

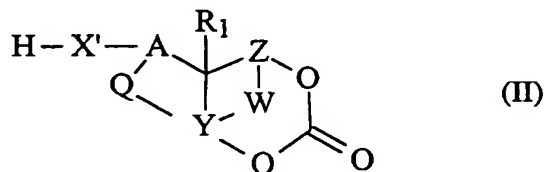
Claim 46 (Previously Presented): Modified polyisocyanates according to claim 23, comprising physical mixtures of polyfunctional isocyanate tricondensates, with allophanates, uretidinediones or dimers, wherein said modified polyisocyanates comprise from 100% to 1 % by weight of isocyanate functions masked with a masking group.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): Modified stable polyisocyanates according to claim 43, comprising isocyanates modified with a compound of formula II having free isocyanate groups and masked isocyanate groups and allophanate and/or uretidinedione groups.

Claim 48 (Canceled)

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): Process for preparing a modified polyisocyanate according to claim 23, having masked isocyanate functions, the process comprising:

a<sub>1</sub>) reaction of a polyisocyanate having at least three isocyanate functions and optionally having a group selected from carbamate, urea, biuret, uretidinedione, isocyanate, urethane or allophanate, with a compound of general formula II:





in which R<sub>1</sub>, A, Q, Y, Z and W have the same meanings as above, and X' represents X or X-COO, X being as specified above; and **[[b)]]** successively reacting with at least one masking compound;

or

a<sub>2</sub>) simultaneous reaction of said polyisocyanate with a compound of formula II and at least one masking compound; and

b) **[[c)]]** isolation of the product obtained.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): Polyisocyanate compositions consisting essentially of a mixture comprising at least 1 % and not more than 99% of a modified stable polyisocyanate according to claim 23, bearing said crosslinking functional group and at least 1 % and not more than 99% of another polyisocyanate modified stable polyisocyanate according to claim 23, bearing said crosslinking functional group and/or another molecule derived from a diisocyanate bearing free and/or masked isocyanate functions and containing no crosslinking functional groups.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): A method for the preparation of nonexpanded coatings, comprising using as a reactant an effective amount of the compound according to claim 23.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): A method for the preparation of nonexpanded coatings, comprising using as a reactant an effective amount of the compound according to claim 23 to form crosslinkable prepolymers, after opening the crosslinking functional group with a reagent.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): A method for the preparation of nonexpanded coatings according to claim 52, wherein the reagent is chosen from compounds with alcohol functions, primary or secondary amine functions, heterocyclic nitrogen compounds containing a reactive hydrogen atom, oximes or phenols.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): A method for the preparation of nonexpanded coatings according to claim 52, wherein the reagent is chosen from aqueous ammonia, primary or secondary amines, nitrogen heterocycles or salts thereof.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): Polymers and/or reticulates obtained by reaction of the modified stable polyisocyanates as claimed in claim 23.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): A method for the preparation of polycondensates and reticulates useful as coatings, comprising reacting an effective amount of a modified stable polyisocyanate as claimed in claim 23 with at least one nucleophilic co-reagent.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 56, wherein the nucleophilic co-reagent comprises at least one amine.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 57, wherein the amine comprises a di- or poly-amine.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): Composition comprising modified stable polyisocyanates as claimed in claim 23, together with at least one compound containing labile hydrogen.